

Glossary

Achene: a small, dry fruit with one seed inside.

Adventitious: arising from an unusual place, such as buds emerging from places other than leaf axils, roots growing from stems or leaves. Also, roots developed by cuttings to aid in water and nutrient uptake.

Allelopathic: the inhibition of growth of one plant species by another due to the release of chemical substances.

Alternate leaves: not directly across from each other along the stem.

Angiosperm: plants whose seeds are borne within a mature ovary or fruit.

Annual: completes its life cycle in one growing season and dies back each year (compare to perennial).

Asexual propagation: plant propagation by cuttings, layering, division, or grafting.

Astringent: having a quality that contracts body tissues and slows down secretions such as bleeding.

Axil: the angled space between a plant part, like a leaf and where it attaches to the plant's axis or main supporting structure, such as a branch or stem.

Basal leaves: growing from the base of a stem.

Biological diversity: the variety of life in a given ecosystem.

Blade: the leaf itself; the flattened part of a leaf not including the petiole.

Bract: a modified leaf often near the flower or inflorescence of a plant; sometimes looking like a petal when brightly colored.

Browser: an animal that nibbles on leaves, twigs, and the buds or shoots of young plants.

Co-exist: to exist together without harming one another.

Compound: when a leaf is made up of completely separate segments called leaflets (compare to simple leaves).

Corolla: term used when referring to all the petals of a flower.

Cotyledon: seed leaf; a modified leaf present in the seed, often functioning for food storage.

Crown: the base of the plant from which leaves and runners originate.

Cyme: a flower cluster in which the central or terminal flower blooms earliest.

Deciduous: loses its leaves in response to the cold season; opposite of evergreen.

Decoction: an extract of essence or flavor produced by boiling down.

Dentate: a term used when the teeth on the margins of a leaf are rather large.

Dichotomous key: a tool used to determine the identity of plants.

Dioecious: has separate male and female flowers that are found on separate plants.

Dicotyledons: or dicots have two cotyledons or seed leaves. Dicots consist of broadleaf plants, lupines and most of the herbaceous and woody shrubs in Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Direct seeding: a method of revegetation in which seeds are sown directly on a restoration site.

Dissected leaves: separated into many narrow segments; often feathery looking.

Drainage: an area through which run-off water drains; usually lower than surrounding areas.

Dune scrub: shrub vegetation that occurs inland from the foredune community.

Dunescape: a landscape covered in dunes.

Ecosystem: all populations living together and the physical factors with which they interact.

Elliptic leaves: shaped like an ellipse, with the center part of the leaf blade widest and the two ends of the blade the same size.

Embryo: a new plant formed from the union of a male and female gamete during

fertilization; it consists of an embryo axis which has a growing point at both ends—one develops into the shoot and one develops into the root—and one or more seed leaves (cotyledons) attached to the embryo axis.

Entire leaf: the margins, or edges, of the leaf are smooth and without teeth or lobes.

Exotic plant species: plant species that did not evolve in its present environment, but was introduced, deliberately or accidentally, by humans.

Exude: to ooze or seep out.

Foliage: the leaves of a plant or tree.

Food storage tissues: complex storage products (carbohydrates, fats, oils, and proteins) laid down in the seed by the mother plant.

Genetic diversity: the variability in genetic or hereditary make-up among individuals within a single species.

Genotype: genetic makeup of a plant.

Germinate: to sprout.

Gymnosperms: plants whose seeds are not enclosed in an ovary; conifers are gymnosperms.

Habitat restoration: to restore or bring back ecological integrity by actively removing invasive exotic plants, propagating native plants, and monitoring the resulting changes.

Hardening off: the process by which a young plant adjusts to high sun intensity.

Hottentots: nomadic, pastoral people of Africa.

Inflorescence: the flowering part of a plant; almost always used when referring to a flower cluster.

Infusion: a liquid extract produced by steeping or soaking (like tea, etc.) to extract flavors or other qualities.

Interdependent: mutually dependent; elements in an ecosystem depend on one another for survival.

Invasive plants: plant species, usually exotic, that have competitive survival and reproductive characteristics, and can therefore outcompete non-invasive, native plant species.

Lanceolate leaves: lance-shaped; several times longer than wide with the widest part at the base and tapering to a point at the apex.

Leaflets: one of the segments (looks like a small leaf) in a compound leaf.

Legume: a plant belonging to a large family of plants that includes peas, beans, clovers, etc.; the fruit is usually a pod; most legumes have special nodules on their roots with nitrogen-fixing bacteria that can take nitrogen out of the air and "fix" it into the soil thus increasing the richness of soil for all plants.

Linear leaves: narrow and flat with sides parallel (such as a grass leaf blade).

Lobed leaves: rounded, curvy, or wavy in shape.

Microclimates: the essentially uniform local climate of a usually small site or habitat; in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the introduction of exotic trees created small microclimates by trapping moisture from the fog and providing increased shade.

Monecious: having separate male and female flowers (i.e., the stamens are found in one flower and the pistils are found in a separate flower) that are found on the same plant.

Monitoring: the collection and analysis of data at regular intervals to record natural and human-induced changes and provide the basis for appropriate management response.

Monoculture: an area covered exclusively by one species.

Monocotyledonous (monocot): plants that have one cotyledon (or seed leaf) on the embryo.

Naturalized: when a plant has taken over the natural range of indigenous plants and acts as though it has always been a part of the original landscape.

Nectar: the sweetish liquid in many flowers used by bees in the making of honey.

Non-native (see also, exotic) plant species: plant species that did not evolve in its

present environment, but was introduced, deliberately or accidentally, by humans.

Oak woodland: a woodland area dominated by Coast live oak trees.

Oblanceolate leaves: inversely lanceolate; the tapered end attaches to the petiole (or stalk) and the widest end is at the apex of the leaf blade.

Oblong leaves: two to four times longer than wide with the sides being nearly parallel.

Opposite leaves: directly across from each other along the stem.

Ovate leaves: vaguely egg-shaped and connected at the broader end to a stem or branch.

Palmate leaves: vaguely hand-shaped, either because it is palmately lobed like a simple leaf or because, in a compound leaf, all leaflets radiate out from a central point.

Palmate veins: when the veins of a leaf radiate from a central point so that the pattern is vaguely hand-shaped.

Panicle: a compound inflorescence with the youngest flowers being at the apex.

Pappus: a tuft of hair on the seed of a plant that helps disperse the seed.

Parallel veins: when the veins on a leaf run parallel from tip to tip along the leaf; typical of grasses and grass-like leaves.

Pedice: the stalk of a single flower in an inflorescence or cluster of flowers.

People-hour: a unit used to describe one hour of work by one person.

Perennial: a plant whose life cycle lasts for several years; a plant that comes back year after year without having to be replanted each year.

Petiole: the stalk of a leaf blade that attaches it to a branch of a plant.

Photomonitoring: a method of monitoring using photography, especially useful in monitoring overall changes in landscape over time.

Pinnately compound leaves: compound leaflets on opposite sides of a long axis.

Pioneer plant species: plant populations that are physiologically capable of colonizing highly disturbed areas of land.

Pistil: the seed-producing part of a flower; often referred to as the female part of a flower.

Plant communities: defined by the dominant plant species found within the community; examples of plant communities found in Golden Gate National Recreation Area are dune scrub, oak woodland, and serpentine grassland.

Pollination: when pollen is transferred to the stigma of flower's pistil leading to fertilization and seed production.

Poultice: a warm cloth or medicinal mixture applied to a sore or inflamed part of the body.

Propagation (sexual and asexual): the reproduction of plants using seed (sexual) or by cuttings, layering, or division (asexual); all vegetative propagation methods produce a plant that has an identical genotype to its mother plant.

Prostrate: lying flat or trailing along the ground.

Purgative: something that purges or gets rid of something from the body.

Quadrat: a plot (usually rectangular) used for ecological or population studies.

Raceme: an inflorescence with pedicelled flowers (the flowers having little stalks) on a long axis (stem or branch) with the youngest flowers at the apex (top).

Revegetate: to reestablish vegetation in a restoration site by planting and seeding of indigenous species.

Rhizome: a thickened stem that looks like a root and grows horizontally along the ground just at or beneath the surface.

Rosette: a basal cluster of leaves arranged in a circular fashion (such as the leaves of the common dandelion).

Seed covering: the outer protective layer of the seed.

Seedbank: all seeds that exist in the soil.

Serpentine grassland: the plant community that grows on serpentine soil.

Serrated leaves: toothed; jagged "teeth" directed forward toward the tip of the leaf.

Sessile: having no stalk of any kind.

Simple leaves: singular; only one segment between the stem of the leaf and the tip of the leaf blade (compare to compound leaves).

Spike: an inflorescence with sessile flowers (the flowers having no stalk of any kind) on a long axis (stem or branch) with the youngest flowers at the apex (top).

Stamens: the pollen bearing organs of a flower.

Stigma: the part of the pistil (female part of the flower) that receives the pollen.

Succession: progressive change in the plant and animal life of an area.

Succulent: a plant that has thick, fleshy tissues that store water and help the plant resist drought conditions.

Toothed leaves: jagged-edged.

Transect: a representative strip of vegetation from which data is collected.

Transpiration: the loss of water from a plant through small openings in the plant's leaves.

Umbel: a convex or flat-topped inflorescence, where all the flowers arise from one central point.

Understory: the plants of a forest undergrowth; an underlying layer of low growing plants.